

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08818 081519Z

46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02

/052 W

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R 081450Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6283

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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BEIRUT FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR EG US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: CAIRO 8518

1. EMBASSY CONCERNS THAT EGYPTIAN DELEGATION AT FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS (SEPT 14) WOULD NOT REFLECT BROADER RANGE OF CONCERNS THAN THOSE OF EGYPTAIR HAVE NOW BEEN CONFIRMED. FOUAD MOURSI, WHO WILL CHAIR DELEGATION, INFORMED EMBOFF SEPT 6 THAT THERE WILL BE FOUR MEMBERS, TWO FROM CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY AND TWO FROM EGYPTAIR. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTION, MOURSI SAID THAT MINFONAFF WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED ("WE TRY TO KEEP THEM OUT OF THESE THINGS.") AND MINTOURISM "HAS NO INTEREST IN SUBJECT".

2. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, EMBASSY HAS DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT CAA AND EGYPTAIR WISH TO CONCLUDE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS (WHICH THEY VIEW AS PRO FORMA) AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS CAN BE IN PLACE BY OCT 1.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 08818 081519Z

3. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY POINTED OUT TO CAA (AND EGYPTAIR

AS WELL) THAT DAILY, UNRESTRICTED TWA FLIGHTS SERVE EGYPTIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS THAT ARE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO EGYPTAIR'S OPERATING REVENUES ON CAIRO-ATHENS AND CAIRO-ROME FLIGHTS, AS EVIDENCED BY CONTINUED INTEREST OF DEP PRIMIN/FONMIN FAHMY (CAIRO 4325). WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MFA (DIR NAMAFF AMB TOUHAMI) ON MATTER AND DCM HAS ALSO DRAWN ATTENTION OF FAHMY'S CHEF DE CABINET AL-BAZ TO UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS, RECALLING ABOVE-MENTIONED FAHMY INTEREST. AL-BAZ SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER.

4. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF DEPT, AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, RAISES SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR GHORBAL, STRESSING CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON ONLY AMERICAN CARRIER NOW SERVING EGYPT, AT TIME WHEN US EXPENDING CONSIDERABLE EFFORT AND MONEY IN ASSISTING PRES SADAT IN SOLVING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING HIS COUNTRY. GHORBAL CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO PASS THESE REPRESENTATIONS ON TO MFA, REINFORCING OUR EFFORTS HERE.
EILTS

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